Repair & Rehabilitation of old railway bridges is a continuous process. A well laid down system of multi-tier inspection of bridges is followed in the Indian Railways. The rehabilitation/rebuilding of the bridges is carried out based on the physical condition as ascertained during inspection and not on the basis of age alone. In case a section is selected for introduction of heavier loads, all the bridges of that section are reviewed and strengthened as per requirement.

Bangalore-Nizamuddin Superfast Train

1128. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is a demand from the people of Davangere and other districts in Karnataka to run Bangalore-Nizamuddin Superfast Train *via* Davangere instead of Guntakal;

(b) if so, the action, if any, to be taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, whether Government will take steps to run the above train *via* Davangere to help large number of commuters of Northern Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) A request has been received from an honourable Member of Parliament for diversion of 2429/2430 Nizamuddin-Bangalore Rajdhani Express (4 days a week) *via* Davangere once a week.

(b) and (c) At present 6217/6218 Nizamuddin-Mysore Swarnajayanti Express (weekly) is available *via* Davangere-Bangalore. Railways do not propose either to introduce additional service or to divert any of the existing services between Delhi-Bangalore to run *via* Davangere, at present.

Increasing bogies in Ratnachal Express

1129. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a need to increase the sitting capacity of Ratnachal Express plying between Vijayawada and Vishakhapatnam in South Central Railways;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is also a need to add one more AC sitting compartment in Ratnachal Express;